



Sicily for Solo Travelers

8 days | 11 days with Rome extension

Whether you're visiting Sicily for its multicultural history or its delectable street food, the island has a rustic charm that sets it apart from mainland Italy. Experience the enigma, ancient ruins, and natural beauty of this Mediterranean destination, journeying through Palermo, Syracuse, and Taormina. And if your heart longs for more time in Italy—and how could it not—extend your trip to Rome for an eternally good time.



Your tour package includes

- 6 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 6 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 cooking class
- 1 food tasting
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Cappella Palatina
- Piazza Armerina
- Sicilian cooking class
- Island of Ortigia
- Syracuse Cathedral
- Taormina's Greek theater
- Views of Mount Etna

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved roads.

Group size

15–28

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Palermo today.

Palermo → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Palermo

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Italy! Settle into your hotel in Palermo, Italy's fifth-largest city and the capital of the island of Sicily. Then, gather with your Tour Director and fellow group members at a mixer before enjoying a welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Palermo

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

This morning, embark on a guided tour of the bayside city of Palermo. You'll find yourself on a crescent of land on the Tyrrhenian Sea in an area known as the Conca d'Oro—the golden shell—thanks to its rich soil and abundant citrus orchards.

- Discover the city's Baroque architecture as you pass the Quattro Canti piazza in the historic center. Officially known as Piazza Vigliena, the vibrant square features four matching facades, each adorned with ornate sculptures, fountains, and statues representing the four seasons, as well as the patron saints of Palermo.
- Step inside the Cappella Palatina, a 12th-century chapel that showcases Byzantine, Islamic, and Norman architectural elements. Gaze up at the intricate geometric design of the wooden muqarnas ceiling and spend time poring over the details of the chapel's elegant mosaics that seem to drape down its walls.
- Cap your walking tour with a tasting of a sweet local specialty.

This afternoon, you'll venture west of Palermo if you add the trip to the ruins of Segesta. There, between rolling hills and olive groves, you'll find a Doric temple dating back to the 5th century B.C., as well as a Greek theater carved into the hillside. If you prefer to spend your free afternoon on your own, head to Palermo's Old Town to wander its narrow alleys and lively squares.

+ Ancient Ruins of Segesta

Syracuse → 2 nights

Day 4: Syracuse via Piazza Armerina

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

On the way to Syracuse, stop for a guided tour of Piazza Armerina and view the stunning mosaics in the UNESCO-listed Villa Romana del Casale, renowned for its remarkably preserved floor mosaics which offer insight into Roman life and culture in the 4th century. The comune, or town, of Piazza Armerina is itself a charming mix of cobblestone streets, medieval buildings, and Baroque churches—the quintessential Sicilian backdrop.

Later today, continue to Syracuse and sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine. Tomorrow, you'll dive into the history and mythology of this corner of the southeastern coast of Sicily, steeped in Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, and Norman cultures.

Day 5: Cooking class & sightseeing tour of Syracuse

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

No trip to Sicily is complete without a family-style feast. This morning, you'll start the day at a market, learning about the just-picked produce you'll use to craft an authentic Sicilian meal during a hands-on cooking class led by a professional chef. Join (flour-covered) hands with your fellow solo travelers in cooking—and promptly devouring—a traditional lunch. You'll enjoy your creation with beer or wine, of course. Later, embark on a guided tour of Syracuse, a city known for its rich Greek history.

- Visit the Greek Theater, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site that dates to the 5th century B.C. From its location, carved into the limestone rock of Temenite Hill, it overlooks the city and sparkling waters of the Ionian Sea. Theater productions and concerts continue there to this day, especially in the summer months.
- Tour the massive Latomia del Paradiso, or Paradise Quarry, and gardens. The quarry played a crucial role in the city's development

and prosperity during ancient times and the limestone extracted from the quarries was used to build the temples and fortifications that made Syracuse into a Mediterranean power.

- Experience the mind-bending echoes of the Ear of Dionysius, a large limestone cave formerly used as a prison. The tyrant Dionysius I used the cave's unique acoustics to eavesdrop on prisoners.
- Visit the Roman amphitheater, then cross a bridge to the island of Ortigia to see the Temple of Apollo and Cathedral of Syracuse. Still standing as a testament to Syracuse's Greek history, the Temple of Apollo retains some of its original Doric columns. (Not bad for a 2,600 year old!) Officially known as the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Holy Nativity of Mary, the Cathedral of Syracuse is famous for its Baroque decorations and prominent bell tower. Inside, look for the colorful frescoes, marble sculptures, and embellished altars that decorate the seat of the Archbishop of Syracuse.

Taormina → 2 nights

Day 6: Transfer to Taormina & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Transfer to Taormina, where a local guide will introduce you to this scenic town perched high above the azure waves of the Ionian Sea. Look familiar? This lush Sicilian gem was featured prominently in the series *The White Lotus*. And understandably so: Its rugged cliffs, ocean-view piazzas, and streets lined with sprays of bougainvillea were, and remain, a magnet for jetsetters.

- Stroll along the city's cobblestone paths to see the Cathedral of Taormina, its elegant bell tower rising proudly above the town's skyline. Continue to visit the medieval walls of the Palazzo Corvaja, the home of the first Sicilian parliament.
- Visit the town's 2nd-century Greek theater which, on clear days, offers panoramic vistas

of Mount Etna. One of the most iconic—and active—volcanoes in the world, Mount Etna is an ever-present companion in Taormina, inspiring myths, legends, and art in the region.

Day 7: Free day in Taormina

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

On your free day, add an exploration of Sicily's World War II history to your itinerary with an optional visit to the Museo Storico dello Sbarco. The interactive exhibit features striking photographs and a life-size model of a wartime bunker. When you join the excursion, you'll also get time in Catania, a city renowned for its Baroque architecture, much of which was rebuilt following a devastating earthquake in 1693. If you're setting off on your own (or with another solo traveler as your companion), we recommend a stroll along Corso Umberto for shopping, people-watching, and a host of trattorias. You can also hike to Castelmola, an adorable hilltop village above Taormina that boasts epic views of the coastline. Celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening, served with beer or wine and featuring live music played by local musicians.
+ Museo Storico dello Sbarco & Historic Catania

Flight Home

Day 8: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Catania airport for your flight home. Or, if you'd like to squeeze in a few more sips of Aperol spritz or scoops of gelato into your trip, treat yourself to a few days in Rome. You'll continue your tour of antiquity through romantic piazzas and mysterious catacombs with your fellow solo-travelers-turned-new-friends.

+ Rome extension

Rome wasn't built in a day and, if you ask us, it wasn't meant to be enjoyed in a day either. We know you'll want to take your time in the Eternal City. Whether you play time-traveler while hopping between historic sites or live out your best take on Roman Holiday, it's in your hands, and we're here to help. Ask your Tour Director for their favorite ways to savor the city—like their secret spot for pasta carbonara—and get going!

Rome → 3 nights

Day 8: Flight to Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Fly to Rome and spend a free evening in the Italian capital on your own. You can unwind in your hotel or use your free evening to explore the city. Not only will you see Rome's monuments illuminated at night, but you'll also take part in a beloved Italian tradition: the passeggiata, or traditional evening stroll. Grab one of your fellow solo travelers, find a gelateria, and enjoy people-watching at its best.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Lose yourself in a chaotic symphony of honking Vespas, busy markets, and secret alleyways. Join your Tour Director for a walking tour of Rome, a living tapestry of contradictions where age-old ruins coexist with a vibrant, modern spirit.

- Stroll past the Spanish Steps, where Pietro Bernini's Baroque-style Fontana della Barcaccia has stood since the 1600s, and head to the intricately carved Trevi Fountain. The latter—a romantic, Baroque beauty carved of Travertine stone—has served as the dreamy backdrop to *La Dolce Vita* and *Roman Holiday*. Legend says that if you throw one coin into the fountain, you're bound to return to Rome.
- Enter the Pantheon, home to the world's largest unenforced concrete dome. There, you'll learn about the engineering skills of the ancient Romans and how they created this well-preserved temple.
- End at Piazza Navona and see Gian Lorenzo Bernini's Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi, commissioned by Pope Innocent X in the 17th century. It symbolizes the four major rivers of the four continents where papal authority had spread at the time.

You won't want to skip the guided tour of St. Paul's Basilica—one of Rome's four major papal churches. Add it to your itinerary to view the final resting place of St. Paul, and to take a subterranean journey to Rome's ancient catacombs.

Prefer to spend the afternoon on your own? Whether you want to take it easy over an Americano or take in the beauty of the Galleria Borghese's art collection, the day belongs to you.
+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

Day 10: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast

On your free day in Rome, you can discover the hidden gem of Trastevere, a bohemian and mostly car-free neighborhood filled with narrow streets and delectable trattorias. Need a moment of respite? Visit the picturesque Aventine Hill, home to the peaceful Giardino degli Aranci (Orange Garden) and the famous keyhole view of St. Peter's Basilica—which you can visit by adding the guided tour of Vatican City to your day. Here, you'll also experience the grandeur and serene beauty of the Vatican Museum, as well as the Sistine Chapel's venerated ceiling fresco. The day is yours to seize.

You may also choose to get your hands dirty—with flour, that is—by adding a pasta-making class to your itinerary. You'll learn traditional techniques for preparing and rolling out fresh pasta before digging into the dishes you prepared.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City
+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/S16 | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Ancient Ruins of Segesta

\$119CAD/\$129CAD* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Journey west from Palermo to visit the ancient ruins of Segesta. During the guided tour, you'll learn about the indigenous Elymians who lived in western Sicily throughout the Bronze Age. View the magnificent fifth-century Doric temple and ancient Greek-style theater that they built as you soak in views of the picturesque Sicilian countryside.

Day 7: Museo Storico dello Sbarco & Historic Catania

\$89CAD/\$99CAD* (6 hours, departs in the morning)

Explore Sicily's World War II history on a visit to the Museo Storico dello Sbarco, an interactive museum featuring striking photographs and a life-size model of a war-era bunker. Then, stroll past the Baroque architecture of Catania's historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. You'll see the bustling shops and cafes of Via Etnea and Via dei Crociferi, the grand Teatro Massimo Bellini and the historic Palazzo Biscari. End your tour at the beautiful Piazza del Duomo, home of the famous elephant statue, where you'll have free time for lunch.

has ever known—Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Madonna della Pietà.

Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Day 10: Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

In this hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef, you'll learn to make pasta—perhaps pillow ravioli or castellane, a ridged shell pasta that's rolled into a long, oval shape—using traditional techniques you can keep on practicing when you get back home. Then, sit down for dinner and enjoy the dishes you've prepared, along with wine.

Extension excursion options

Day 9: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

\$125CAD/\$135CAD* (4 hours, departure time varies)

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through the burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome. Originally founded by Constantine the Great, the Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul.

Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the Basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be challenging for claustrophobic travelers.

Day 10: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$175CAD (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms